

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08262 221314Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /103 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8262

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, VE
SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP ENERGY TALKS WITH VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 162558

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES HERNANDEZ AGREES WITH
SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL RE FOLLOW UP ENERGY TALKS
AND PORPOSED TO SEND SMALL GROUP TO WASHINGTON IN LATE
SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER TO DEFINE AGENDA FOR HIS SUBSEQUENT
MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. VENEZUELAN
PREPARATORY GROUP TENTATIVELY TO CONSIST OF DR. AREVALO
REYES, DIRECTOR GENERAL SECTORIAL DE HIDROCARBUROS
MINISTERIO DE ENERGIA Y MINAS, DR. ULISES RAMIREZ,
DIRECTOR GENERAL SECTORIAL DE ENERGIA, ALSO OF MINISTRY,
DR. ALIRIO PARRA, DIRECTOR (IN CHARGE OF MARKETING AND PRICES)
PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA, AND DR. MARIANO GURFINKEL, SPECIAL
ADVISOR, PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA, WHO IS ALSO ADVISOR TO
MINISTER OF ENERGY. FELIX ROSSI, PETROLEUM COUNSELOR OF THE
VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON EXPECTED TO JOIN THE GROUP
THERE.

2. VENEZUELAN BELIEVE PRECISE TIMING OF PREPARATORY
GROUP MEETING SHOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN
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THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE
MEETING TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER KEY POSITIONS IN NEW DEPARTMENT
HAVE BEEN FILED. SCHLESINGER-HERNANDEZ MEETING SHOULD
FOLLOW THAT OF PREPARATORY GROUP BY AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS,
BUT SHOULD TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN THE END OF NOVEMBER
SO AS NOT TO PRESS TOO CLOSELY ON DECEMBER 20 OPEC MEETING HERE.

3. HERNANDEZ SEES THESE TALKS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL BILATERAL EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD BE REPEATED AT SIX TO EIGHT MONTH INTERVALS. HE ALREADY HOLDS SIMILAR EXCHANGES WITH HIS BRITISH AND CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS. THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS THIS CONCEPT, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, TAKEN DURING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND MINISTER HERNANDEZ SHOULD MEET AND REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH TO INCREASE ENERGY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. DEPARTMENT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO BEGIN WORK ON PREPARATORY GROUP MEETING AND SUGGEST APPROPRIATE DATES FOR THIS MEETING.
VAKY

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